



COUNTY OF ERIE
Erie County Planning Commission

Edward Kissell
Chair

Erie County Courthouse
150 East Front Street – Suite 300
Erie, Pennsylvania 16507
Phone: (814) 451-6336
www.eriecountyp Planning.org

Gerry Dahl
Vice-Chair

ERIE COUNTY PLANNING
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2016

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, August 11th, 2016 at Headwaters Park, 1927 Wager Road, Erie PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC Executive Board Members:	Representing:
William Kuhn	Platea Boro + ECAB
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp
Flory Kondzielski	Waterford Twp
Charles Casey	City of Erie
Carol J. Loll	County Council
Edward S. Kissell	County of Erie
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp
Gerry Dahl	County of Erie
Paul Pangratz	Girard Township
ECPC Members:	
Matthew Waldinger	Millcreek Twp
Linda Bliley	Green Twp
Ken Barner	Elk Creek Twp
Kurt Litchenfeld	North East Twp
Planning Department Staff:	
Katherine Wyrosdick	Director of Planning
Renae Trapp	County Planning
Guests:	
Amanda Blair	Fairview Township
Robert Mazza	North East Twp
Tom McClure	Erie County Conservation District

Executive Board members present – 9 of 9; quorum attained

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ed Kissell called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and the pledge of allegiance was given.

II. APPROVAL OF June 9TH 2016, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes were reviewed by Mr. Ed Kissell and a change was made by Bill Kuhn regarding comments related to the need for cellular phone funding. A motion to approve the minutes, as amended, of June 9th, 2016 was submitted by Charles Casey and Seconded by Gerry Dahl. All members in favor, none opposed.

III. Hearing of the Public

Tom McClure of the Erie County Conservation District welcomed everyone to their park and spoke briefly about his organization.

IV. ECDP Activity Report

A. Planning Director's Report

Reorganization of Erie County Planning Commission

Kathy Wyrosdick, discussed this item briefly and noted that due to an increase in interest, a memorandum explaining the need for reorganization of the Commission, its history and how it will be accomplished was sent out to all municipalities via email and USPS. She has received a few phone calls asking for clarification but no outward opposition to the proposal.

Medical Marijuana and its Effects on Zoning in Municipalities

Kathy shared with the Commission a recently completed overview of the Medical Marijuana legislation and its potential effects on local land use control which was prepared by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. The Erie County Planning Department will continue to monitor the development of regulations and guidelines as they are produced by the PA Department of Health.

CZM

The DEP has recently proposed significant reduction in funding for local administration of the Coastal Resource Management program. The proposal is to reduce the allocation by 65% to an historical low which has come as a complete surprise to the ECDP and threatens to eliminate the program altogether. A letter prepared by the LECZAC is being circulated urging that the program remain intact and fully funded. They are asking other stakeholders in Erie County to support the funding of this successful and beneficial program.

CDBG

Funding of qualified projects through the County has been difficult. July 29th was the deadline for applications from the 29 non-entitlement communities and after 7 applications were returned, none met the LMI threshold. In response, the Program Administrator is recommending that a housing rehabilitation project in Union City Borough be funded. The funding for this project will amount to \$226,317 towards the project, after administrative costs. Funding will permit the rehab of 13 homes in the Borough and will align with the Erie County Housing Plan. Since no competitive projects beyond the Union City Borough were found eligible, there is no need for the Commission to score projects.

V. New Business

Kathy Wyrosdick noted that Renae Trapp has accepted a full time position with Public Safety and this is her last Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Wyrosdick thanked her for her work and support with the Department and the Commission.

Ms. Wyrosdick asked that the regular meeting of the Commission be cancelled as it conflicts with another meeting. No one opposed the cancellation of the meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Revised by-laws for new membership to be presented to County Council.

B. Review recommendations for “Transitional Commission”

(Items A & B are together).

Discussion continued regarding the reorganization of the Planning Commission from its current membership composition to a more traditional composition of no more than 9 members and 3 alternates which shall be appointed by the local government. In this case it is Erie County. Kathy presented a matrix showing the historical attendance by municipality. This will be used to develop a recommendation of appointment for County Council’s consideration of membership for a transition commission.

Bill Kuhn reiterated his objection to the need for reorganization. Kathy Wyrosdick explained that the Commission has two options: they can become a legitimate regional planning commission and enter into cooperative agreements with each municipality as required by the MPC or they can transition into the traditional 9 member board. The majority of the Commission decided that a regional planning commission was not preferred and that the 9 member commission makes sense.

Will Rogers from North East Borough pointed out that the membership moving forward will be dependent on the desire of County Council so spending a great amount of time on recommendations is not needed.

Gerry Dahl recommended that the final draft of the bylaws be presented at the meeting in October and that recommendations for appointment be presented at that time. Majority of the members approved with Bill Kuhn as the dissenting vote.

VII. Other Business

None

VIII. Adjournment

Charles Casey made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ed Kissel seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.